

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1 Each of duplicated incoming line cards, connected to respective
2 input ports of a self-routing switch, receives an incoming packet,
3 determines an output port of the switch based on an address contained in
4 the packet using routing information stored in a routing table, converts the
5 packet into intra-node cells of fixed length and forwards the cells to the
6 switch so that the cells are routed to the output port. Each of duplicated
7 outgoing line cards, connected to output ports of the switch, receives intra-
8 node cells from the switch, converts the cells into a packet, forwards the
9 packet to an outgoing transmission line, and monitors the outgoing
10 transmission line. A fault indication is sent to the incoming line cards if a
11 fault condition is detected in the monitored line. Each incoming line card
12 responds to this indication for updating its table so that traffic is routed to
13 a normally operating outgoing line.